

PEACE NEWS

For War-Resistance and World-Community

No. 672

May 13, 1949

THREEPENCE

U.S. PACIFISTS URGE C.O. RIGHTS FOR ISRAEL

New York.

INCLUSION in the proposed Constitution of Israel of a specific provision recognising the rights of conscientious objectors was urged upon Dr. Chaim Weizmann, President of Israel, by Dr. George W. Hartmann, national chairman of the War Resisters' League.

In a letter sent to Dr. Weizmann on the eve of a testimonial dinner to him, given by the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, Dr. Hartmann noted with satisfaction that the proposed constitution contains a provision such as article 15, which states: "Freedom of conscience and the free exercise of all forms of worship, subject only to the maintenance of public order and morals, shall be ensured to all."

In announcing his letter, Dr. Hartmann also made public for the first time here a letter written last February by Dr. Albert Einstein, noted scientist, to the War Resisters' International in England, of which the War Resisters' League in the U.S. is an affiliate.

Dr. Einstein's letter said, "I should be gratified if the State of Israel would establish a legal basis for the status of conscientious objectors. I believe it would be a step in the direction of the best Jewish moral tradition."

SPRING SOWING!



—Fellowship, USA.

WELSH CHILDREN'S PEACE MESSAGE

THE fiftieth anniversary of the First Hague Peace Conference on May 18, 1899, will see the twenty-eighth annual "Goodwill Message" go out to the world from the children of Wales.

The following is the text of the message, to be broadcast by the BBC on 373.1 metres at 5 p.m. on May 18:

This is Wales calling! The boys and girls of Wales are calling the boys and girls of all the world!

We rejoice, to think that, above the tumult, on this day of the year, we can greet each other as members of one great family, the family of the nations of the future.

The world is full of suffering, cruelty and strife. And we are told that civilisation may perish. Let us tell the world that civilisation shall not perish.

More than ever the world needs what we alone can give—the confidence and the comradeship of youth.

May we then, on this Goodwill Day dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of

GANDHI AND THE PPU

Extracts from an article by Mahatma Gandhi endorsing the PPU pledge as a right and a practicable course of action appear under the heading "Ten Years Ago" on page 3.

our fellows in ever-widening circles, to the service of our home, of our neighbourhood, of our country so that our country may better serve the world to which we all belong?

So shall we, millions of us, grow up to be the friends of all and the enemies of none.

The message is re-broadcast and reprinted in many countries. Last year it went out from all Austrian radio stations and also from Buenos Aires.

For the first time since the war, there was a reply last year from China and also from Japan, the latter reading:

I am a teacher in High School. When (some ten years ago) I was serving in primary school I was sent the Welsh Children's Message pamphlet . . . I hope anxiously to co-operate with you again.

Y. Nozama, Aichi-prefecture, Nishikamo, Japan.

American Quakers ask

SEVEN QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PACT

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington is now receiving evidence on the Atlantic Pact prior to the debate on its ratification.

The Society of Friends Committee on National Legislation, of Washington,

in its periodical Memorandum of Interest to Religious Groups, publishes "Some Questions About the Pact," with a view to informing public opinion while the hearing of the evidence is in progress. Among them are the following:

Is the Pact consistent with the United Nations Charter?

"ATLANTIC Pact Viewed at UN as Fatal Blow," runs a banner headline in the Chicago Daily News of March 7, 1949, over a story from Lake Success, written by their correspondent, who says:

"The United States is throwing so much emphasis behind the proposed Atlantic Pact that if continued it could be a kiss of death for the UN. The USA may be giving lip service to the UN and its possibilities, but in reality it is selling the UN straight down the river. . . . Unless the United Nations gets full and honest support from the USA and the other big Powers, it will not survive."

While Article 51 providing for regional defence pacts was put in the Charter largely to accommodate the USA in regard to the Monroe Doctrine, Article 53, specifically says:

"No enforcement action shall be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorisation of the Security Council."

Felix Morley, in the February 16 issue of Human Events writes:

"The Department of State is trying manfully to turn the Vandenberg Resolution and Article 51 of the Charter, into two pillars for the support of the North Atlantic Treaty. It can only be done by a tour de force. The projected treaty is clearly designed as a military alliance . . . against other members . . . And to assert that the UN Charter ever contemplated such a travesty is absurd. . . . Only Americans are fooled by our feverish effort to build an alliance against Russia 'within the framework of the United Nations'."

Can the United Nations be strengthened by dividing the world in half and arming one set of members . . . against another set of members? Or can it be strengthened only by disarmament and the revision of the UN to give it more moral and political power?

Can alliances keep peace?

BLAIR BOLLES starts an article in the New Republic for Feb. 21, by saying:

"The 20th century diplomatic boneyard is littered with dead defence treaties that failed in their purpose. They did not prevent the outbreak of war, and, once war came, they did not always secure victory. . . . The inevitable consequence of this kind of treaty-making is to provoke the other side to make treaties of its own. . . . Nobody keeps the peace by an alliance race."

What may be the effect on Russia?

THE natural thing will be for the Russians to interpret the arrangements as directed against them; to prey upon their fears regarding encirclement . . . and to increase their pressure upon neighbouring countries like Finland. . . .

What will the programme cost?

OFFICIAL spokesman for the Pact have been singularly reticent about the cost but have declared that the military programme would be "modest" and secondary to the economic recovery programme. . . .

The United Press reports that "the Administration plans to ask Congress to authorise a military Lend-Lease to cost between \$1,000 million and \$2,000 million in the first year." And it adds "Some estimates have placed the cost between 15 and 25 billion during the next five years. . . ."

Compare the above cost for a multi-billion rearmament programme at home and abroad with the pathetically small investments which the U.S. makes in agencies of the United Nations—\$18m for the U.N. itself; \$14m for the solution of world hunger through the Food and

Agricultural Organisation; \$34 m for "creating in the minds of men the defences of peace through UNESCO . . ."

Are there any lessons from history regarding shipment of arms to other countries?

THERE are several such lessons. Besides what we supplied during the war, the US has furnished the Chinese Government about two billion dollars worth of military equipment and supplies . . . since V-J Day. It is estimated that about 90% of those military supplies are now in the hands of the Chinese Communists.

France heavily subsidised her ally, Czechoslovakia between the wars. Tanks, artillery and planes which France paid for and which were manufactured by Skoda, were seized by Hitler, and were used by the invading German army to overpower the French in 1940.

The U.S. shipped 20 million tons of scrap iron to Japan in the 1930's. Much of this was returned in shrapnel at Tarawam, Guadalcanal and Okinawa.

When you put arms in the hands of another man there is no absolute guarantee that they will be pointed the other way.

On the basis of the current situation, if there is not substantial progress in economic health and stability, can any one guarantee that Italy or France, for example, will not go Communist within the next 20 years and cease to be an ally?

Is the real threat to the West from Russia military or ideological?

THE United States News and World Report for March 18, in a three-page story based on interviews with top civilian and military officials at home and abroad, doubts that the Russians plan or want war in the immediate future. This would indicate that the present opportunity should be used for a determined effort to end the cold war and seek a series of settlements with the Soviet Union. Russian living standards are miserably low. The Russian people are war-weary. The Russian economy is badly wounded.

Can the march of revolutionary Communism be stopped by cold steel? whether we intend it or not, to seem to be on the side of the Dutch in Indonesia, or the French in Indo-China, or to be bolstering up conservative regimes in Greece and Turkey, is to fan the flames of Communism.

The conduct of USA has to appear convincing to the hundreds of millions of coloured people in Africa and Asia, to the peoples who are being wooed or pressured by both the democracies and the Communists. Will more planes and bayonets shipped to France and Italy put food in the mouths of workers, build houses over their heads, divide lands held feudally or clerically, and instill democracy instead of Communism?

What will be the effect on post-war recovery at home and abroad?

OUR own post-war readjustment is being delayed by the inflationary effect of 15 billion dollars spent on armament, plus the increasing reliance of industry on war orders.

Add to these the growing restrictions on freedom, the spy mania, the loyalty investigations, the pressure against discussion of controversial subjects, and the other human and spiritual costs to the American people.

To the extent that scarce resources are diverted to rearmament in Europe, to that degree will the needed restoration of factories, houses and goods be delayed for the welfare of the people of Europe, now subsidised by USA at the rate of about 5 billion dollars a year through ECA.

Are we to have a repetition of war scares to put the Pact through Congress, with accompanying appropriations, such as we had to put over Selective Service?

America must choose

THE people of the USA must decide whether they will subscribe to a semi- (CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX)

MUST CHILDREN DIE AS NATIONS ARM?

Because the world will not contribute £7 million, the United Nations' child feeding scheme and fight against T.B. may have to close down. (News Chronicle, May 4th, 1949).

Britain has declined to hold a money raising campaign for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund but is spending £760 million on arms and recruiting.

The tragedy of World War II has not yet ended for many children.

WARS WILL CEASE WHEN MEN REFUSE TO FIGHT!

What are YOU doing about it?

THE PEACE PLEDGE UNION

Dick Sheppard House,
6, Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1

Above is the text of the leaflets confiscated by the Police on Army Day. Further copies are still available from the PPU for distribution.

ARMY DAY was PEACE DAY!

Attempts to inaugurate a British Army Day as a stimulus to recruiting resulted in peace demonstrations in London which had the reverse effect of that normally expected from a military display.

London's Parade marched through streets thinly lined with silent people; a silence which caused the Rev. Leonard P. Smith of Edinburgh, who was in London for the day, to write a vigorous letter of protest to the Daily Express asking—"Why are Londoners too lazy to cheer?"

MEMBERS of the PPU distributed over 1,000 copies of the leaflet illustrated above as Britain's conscript army, heavily guarded by the police, marched down the Strand last week.

By the time the head of the mile-long procession had reached Ludgate Circus (where it was to be halted by a courageous group of mothers linking arms across the road) the police had confiscated all the remaining leaflets which the distributors had left in their hands.

Sybil Morrison, PPU Campaign Organizer, was the first to be asked by a police officer to stop giving out the leaflets. She challenged his authority to do so, and on repeating her request to be told under what regulation he was acting, Sybil Morrison received the support of a Pressman standing by, who said to the officer, "You ought to answer the lady, you know."

The officer's only reply was that he was instructed to stop the distribution of leaflets within half a mile of the procession.

Phyllis Vallance then took over the distribution at the same point—the corner of the Aldwych and the Strand by Wellington Street—until her leaflets were confiscated. Hugh Brock next moved up to the site for a further ten minutes until he in his turn was approached by a police officer. Hugh Brock was told that the leaflets were being confiscated under "The Commissioner's regulations for the day of the procession."

Hilda von Klenze, of the German section of the War Resisters' International, and Jack Salkin also had their leaflets confiscated at other points along the Strand.

Enquiries made by Peace News at the Scotland Yard Press Bureau and at police stations revealed the fact that no regulations for the procession had been widely circulated. All the police officers contacted were unaware of the existence of any such regulation.

Sybil Morrison has lodged a protest with the Commissioner for Police at this confiscation of PPU property.

The distribution of the leaflets aroused no hostility, several people greeted the distributors with such remarks as "good work," or "good for you." More important still, it brought the name of the Peace (CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX)

PEACE NEWS

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Church's dilemma (continued)

THE Presbyterian Church of England is the latest religious body to admit its dilemma regarding the atom bomb. This was candidly acknowledged at the General Assembly in Manchester last week, when the report of a committee on "The Church and the Community" stated that the Church "does not find its duty clear."

If, says the report, the Church is accused of forsaking its master by sanctioning the use of the bomb, it might equally be "accused of apostasy" if, having renounced the bomb, it "delivered the world to the perversion of conscience and spiritual slavery."

Again, if it sanctioned retaining the bomb in order to compel conditions of reasonable conference, and the bombs began to fall notwithstanding, it is guilty. But if, having declared that the bombs should be destroyed, it opened the way for world domination by "ruthless men who acknowledge no absolute standards," then when "the concentration camps begin to operate, it is also guilty."

So the Church is guilty whatever it does. This is certainly a dilemma. One might go further and say it is hard luck.

"We are not faced with a clear choice between good and evil"; continues the report, "nor is there any choice which may not involve appalling suffering."

On that argument nobody ever was faced with a clear choice, and we are never justified in making one so long as there is any doubt about possible consequences.

It would be interesting to see what kind of report the Committee would issue on the action of the Christian martyrs. By the same argument they would be obliged to censure them as guilty, since their choice of action—made upon what they rashly believed to be a clear choice—undoubtedly did involve suffering to other people besides themselves as well as leaving the world open to domination by ruthless men.

Stated thus far, however, this is no new situation. We are accustomed to sympathising with one section of the Church after another in its inability to give a lead in the problem which today most perplexes Christendom. But what gives this Presbyterian statement a peculiar distinction is its apparent assumption that it can get along all right without giving such a lead.

For having refused to give any advice on the moral issue which more than any other worries modern society, the report then proceeds to be splendidly "outspoken" about all the others.

The decline in sex morality, the increase of dishonesty, theft, work-miking and gambling, the evasion of income-tax and bus fares—all these come in for a fine denunciation. And it ends by calling for "a fresh and precise formulation of the Christian obligation" and "some firm principles to which young people in industry and the Forces, new converts and bewildered middle-aged folk, can hold fast."

Young people and bewildered middle-aged folk may find this better than nothing. They are to have "firm principles" about gambling and sex, but not about wholesale massacre. The Christian obligation to the bus companies and the inland revenue is to be precisely formulated, but not the Christian obligation to the innocent millions for whom we are preparing torture and death.

We dare to hope that this defeatist document will be repudiated by many men of stronger faith within the Presbyterian Church.

But as it stands, it has at least this value: it partly explains why the Church is losing what little hold it had on the younger generation.

The two conferences

WE do not profess to estimate the true relation between the closing Conference at Bonn and the coming Conference of Foreign Ministers at Paris.

The success of the former is no direct assurance for the latter, which faces such enormous problems as German unity and the withdrawal of troops. Most observers are not over-optimistic. But that is no reason for ignoring such real and hopeful advances as the Bonn Conference indicates.

By adopting the basic law of the West German State by an overwhelming majority the Parliamentary Council has provided an outline of a democratic federal Germany of the kind most Germans probably desire.

The Times suggests that in German eyes it may be "less a provisional constitution than a political banner to which all democratic Germans can rally." Perhaps; all the same it is a very good banner for people who so far have not had one to wave.

Why not disarm first?

DISCUSSING the chances of the Paris Conference, the Manchester Guardian says, "the Foreign Ministers must do their best to kill . . . this war mentality which bedevils political activity, hampers European reconstruction and acts as a major obstacle to a settlement."

And so say all of us. But with what weapons do they hope to kill it? More bombs and tanks?

What needs killing first is the fantastic belief that it is any use holding out "the hand of friendship" while the other hand is full of weapons.

Elephants generally remember

IT is necessary to get these antagonisms into some sort of perspective.

Relations between nations are always re-

trospective. States—cumbersome, thick-skinned creatures that they are, naturally have elephantine memories. Writing of the recent Dublin celebrations in honour of Eire's severance from the Commonwealth, Roy Sherwood wrote: "They seem to me mainly a display of emotion, in greater part a pay-off of old grievances against the English. . . . A people's memory of old wrongs is enduring."

That is understandable, despite the fact that for the previous 30 years Britain had left Ireland alone. But for the last 30 years a sequence of British Governments and statesmen have displayed persistent antagonism to the Russians. And we cannot expect such a drastic purge of memories even from totalitarians.

Their present attitude—their mistrust of Western motives, their irrational and often utterly ridiculous accusations, their twisting into sinister plots of actions which we know to be largely humane—all this must not be regarded as something which has arisen since the war, nor as 'the expression of doctrinaire theories as to how, according to the Book of Words, capitalist nations are bound to behave.

Nothing less will do

It is absolutely necessary to take into account the accumulated antagonisms of the 22 pre-war years, starting with Churchill's £100 million war against them and ending with the efforts of British statesmen to appease Nazism as a "bulwark against Bolshevism."

Until the Russians have forgotten this we must not. Such deeply-rooted resentment can only be dispelled by a gesture so extreme as to preclude all possibility of misinterpretation.

The more serious the disease 'the more drastic the treatment; and in the present state of the world's sickness no treatment less drastic than disarmament can hope to lower the patient's temperature.

EXTRACT OF PARLIAMENT

By John Alving

THE Commons debate on the Yangtse tragedy, which developed into a full-scale discussion of Far Eastern problems, was pretty thoroughly covered in the national Press, perhaps because Mr. Alexander's announcement of Hongkong reinforcements provided a gleeful occasion for warlike headlines.

Most papers underplayed the purely precautionary nature of these measures, the revelation that the Amethyst affair developed from accidental shots, and the pleas from all sides for settlement with the Communists and the peaceful development of trade.

Mr. Atlee, in his reply to the debate, preferred to ignore a statement by Commander Maitland (Horncastle, Con.) that talks with a Communist deputation had actually taken place aboard the ill-starred frigate.

The Prime Minister, he said, should tell the House who those Communists were, where they came from, and what they discussed.

The Premier was forthright about air-cover "moonshine." On this matter Mr. Emrys Hughes (S. Ayrshire, Lab.) was even more to the point at question time, when he asked: "If aircraft had gone with the ship, and if the Chinese population had been bombed, how would that have helped the British subjects whom this ship was being sent to help?"

At this point Mr. Speaker intervened: "We cannot discuss the whole situation now . . ."

Shoot first!

THE chaos in Malaya was reflected in the Colonial Under-Secretary's replies to Mr. Hughes about the shooting of two women by the police. Mr. Rees-Williams protected himself behind the case of another woman whose hands were blown off by her own grenade. Pressed to give an instruction that unarmed people should not be shot, he could only protest: "One of the women was armed, and it is quite impossible to know whether a person is armed or not before fire is opened."

Moscow resignation

THE Flutter in the House over Mr. Archibald Johnstone's "Pravda" outburst was mild—and bitter.

Johnstone resigned his Moscow Editorship of "British Ally" because he thought the paper's policy belied its title. Members seemed to find this attitude beyond their mental scope, and could only suggest that his liability to such a lapse should have been detected before the Foreign Office appointed him.

A remark by Mr. Henry Strauss (Eng. Universities, Con.) that he was "known in Fleet Street as a notorious Communist fellow-traveller" will raise a few eyebrows among those who knew this cheerful philosophic Scot with his warm smile and his adventurous spirit.

Mr. Mayhew was evasive on that point:

"I should dislike holding against a man what Fleet Street says of him."

The Foreign Under-Secretary revealed the robot-like nature of such "editorships." Johnstone, he emphasised, had no concern with policy. His duty was simply to prepare the matter for the printer.

Mr. Mayhew assented when Mr. Thurtle (Shoreditch, Lab.) declared that "this man has completely betrayed the interests he was sent to Russia to promote."

No voice was raised to support Johnstone's own notions of loyalty to the cause of international friendship.

Colour bar

RAISING the question of the Commonwealth and racial questions, Mr. Tom Driberg (Maldon, Lab.) told the House of a recent incident in Cardiff, where some workers refused to work with two coloured men unless separate canteen and other facilities were provided.

"We have to educate the people of this country," he said, "in the lesson that we have no right to a very much higher standard of living until there has been a drastic improvement for millions in the Colonial Empire."

Mr. Noel-Baker, Secretary for Commonwealth Relations, declared that only our understanding could avert a terrible racial war.

PROTEST

I HAVE just read a most disturbing newspaper item. Three Jersey Naval Cadets, proceeding to their training ship, saw two little girls marooned by the rising tide. They stopped to rescue the children and in consequence were late for duty.

Next day they were praised by their commanding officer, who said: "Their action in rescuing the children was more important than obeying an order."

This is the most dangerous precedent ever recorded in Naval history. If soldiers and sailors are to be permitted to disobey orders in order to save civilian life, where will the matter stop?

If members of the Fighting Forces are to be allowed to interrupt the course of their duties until women and children have been removed from danger, how can any major operation of modern warfare ever be carried out?

If we cannot strike at the enemy through his wives and children, our most effective weapons will remain unused, our most wonderful inventions wasted, and the military clock put back 100 years.

If soldiers, sailors and airmen are to be permitted to be as humane and chivalrous as they please, war will become impossible; civilisation will remain undefended, democracy unvindicated, and Christianity left to its own resources.

Owlglass

Arming the Pact

E

The North Atlantic treaty countries will be required to increase their defence expenditure next year by 5 per cent. on the current year and their total defence expenditure will be less than one-third of the American \$15,000 million military budget.

The arms will be given, not lent; the U.S. will retain the right to stop shipments at any time; the arms may not be used outside the Atlantic area, nor used to replace equivalent arms which are for use outside it, nor transferred to other countries. And will potential foes please note how meticulous we are.

Defensive, we assure you!

ALL the Foreign Ministers are said to have been unanimous on a policy which emphasises the purely defensive character of the Pact. For that reason, latest American jet aircraft will not be included, nor any secret weapons, such as long-range guided missiles.

We trust that this emphasis upon the purely defensive nature of the Pact and its weapons will provide the Russians with final and convincing proof, if proof were needed, that our hearts are in the right place.

Kindness to the £

IT is one of the many disadvantages of a country which cannot support itself that it can't fix the value of its own money.

Once the goods get into the country the Government can keep the former dictator. Finance, more or less in its place. But when it comes to external trade we are still subject to financial control by the countries that have the goods.

Hitherto it has only been in war-time that Governments have had a sane financial system, because only in such crises were they really concerned to see that such food and materials as were available were fully used and distributed. So in war-time the rules of orthodox, or "sound" finance were suspended.

This time, however, that suspension has been continued. Whereas formerly the distribution of goods was limited by an artificial restriction of purchasing power (so that, as the Social Crediters used to say, we "starved in the midst of plenty"), today our ration-and-subsidy system does succeed in achieving a fairly full and just distribution of available wealth, so that we are as well fed as possible in the midst of shortage.

America lets us off

AS regards our external trade, however, news came that we are to be treated kindly. The U.S. International Finance Committee of the National Foreign Trade Council, Inc. (IFCNFTC for short) has decided that the time is not yet come to devalue the £.

British exports, say its report, are still keeping up well in world markets, while as for imports, these are virtually at a minimum and nothing would be gained by forcing us to curtail our expenditure abroad. Therefore, recognising the value of having two strong currencies in the world to finance international transactions, it suggests steps be taken to strengthen sterling.

While this is a pat on the back for the Government for its good management (or what the Tories call Labour muddle), some may find it humiliating that a country which, after all, did first arise from out the azure main at Heaven's command, should now be told by a former colony where, financially speaking, it may or may not get off.

But countries which let their soil go out of cultivation and try to live on cheap food grown by sweated foreign labour must take the consequences.

WELL DONE! MR. LIN YIU

OUT in the Philippine Islands, Peace News reader, Mr. Lin Yiu, is translating extracts from PN into Chinese for re-printing in Chinese Christian newspapers.

Week by week in Moscow a copy is delivered to a subscriber in the capital of the Soviet Union.

High spot of the week for an isolated farming community in New Zealand is the arrival of THEIR paper.

Indian and U.S. newspapers and periodicals reproduce extracts from the only weekly peace newspaper in the world.

These are a few of the things contributors to the Forward Fund make possible. But by June 30 we need £500

THE EDITOR

Contributions since April 25: £20 4s. 6d.

Total for 1949: £224 2s. 4d.

Please make cheques, etc., payable to Peace News, Ltd., and address them to the Accountant, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4.

PACIFISM IN IRELAND

What practical ways are there in a small country of teaching friendship and understanding? Perhaps this may seem an exclusively Irish problem, unsuitable for Peace News; but the problems of Ireland are the problems of all small countries and I doubt whether they can be solved without the assistance of the large ones. That is my excuse for discussing this Irish problem as if it was a universal one.

By Hubert Butler

IN Ireland, if you told a fellow-countryman that you believed in passive resistance he would look at you with surprise and dismay, but, if you added, "You see I am a Friend," a look of ready understanding would cross his features, "Ah, I see!" he would exclaim with relief, "Of course!"

Once an oddity has been classified, we will accept it more readily than any other people. We have a respect for the registered and certified *fait accompli* that makes us at our best the most tolerant of people, at our worst the most slavish.

On the other hand, the uncatalogued individualist will be more miserable in Ireland than anywhere else. Ireland, of

course, has a reputation for wilfulness and eccentricity, but if you go into the matter you will find that most of the notable characters derive from the eighteenth century tradition; they belonged to or received countenance from the ascendancy class. The Irish gentry had a privileged position denied to their English equivalents. Often they carried self-expression to extraordinary lengths. They believed and said exactly what they liked. They minded the disapproval of their compatriots so little that few found it worth while disapproving.

Uneasy mockers

Now that is all changed. Those to whom privilege was a birthright have gone and the new privileged are uneasy and self-conscious. They mind intensely what people say of them; they console themselves by thinking that there is almost no one that they cannot disconcert with their own sniffs of disapproval. Because of this, when anything unorthodox is said or done, there is a hurricane of sniffing and mocking. The inhibitions of centuries are let off like squibs, and an obvious target is the unusual person. That is why the passive resister will not come out into the open till our country is more established and self-confident.

At the moment, as a fellow-traveller of the Society of Friends, the war-resister can find reassurance and sympathy, but I don't think I am showing disrespect for that noble body if I say that their problems are different from those of the unclassified fighter for peace. Their insubordinate days are now over and it is hard to recall that they were once gaoled as disturbers of the peace, dangerous innovators and heretics. Their claims to be different have been admitted and they are pillars of society. And you cannot be a pillar of an essentially militarist society and also its whole-hearted critic. Their criticisms of society often seem part of an ancient rite and are listened to with bowed heads and wandering thoughts.

Open letter to a non-pacifist

My dear friend,

You, with whose politics I am not in agreement, said to me recently, at the end of a long and passionate argument on world affairs—"In the last resort I would rather fight than be a slave."

You, being a person of great probity, courage and kindness—it is to you and to the many who think like you, that I feel there is this to say.

Time was when fighting for your "one spot, beloved over all" did indeed prevent slavery. A pushed B back out of his terrain, and peace reigned, temporarily at least.

How can it be made clear to those of you who would gallantly defend your home and nation, that the scientific development of men's brains has produced conditions in which man cannot avoid slavery by conquest of arms?

You consider that a certain amount of slavery—the tyranny of bureaucracy, you would call it—obtains today, in this England, which was victorious in the last war. Slavery is relative, and may be political, economic or social. How can you be persuaded that no slavery would be more complete than that another war would bring both victor and vanquished, that honour no longer derives from fighting and dying for the motherland?

The whole angle of approach to the quarrels of man versus man, has taken a new slant, with the full development of atomic power and its concomitants.

You and I are agreed that life is not worth living if we have another world war. You, I know, would bravely die, uncomplaining, if you could feel your death saved England and the traditional way of life.

The truth is that it wouldn't.

The destruction of man does not destroy man's ideas. Fascism is not dead, nor would world war kill Communism.

The old boundaries are down—death and destruction fall on victor and vanquished alike, once man lets loose the atomic power that poisons the earth, for both friend and foe, for incalculable years.

It has all been gradual, from the slings and stones that protected man's offspring in the dawn of time—through the deadly long-bows of six hundred years ago, the discovery of gunpowder, armed navies, death-dealing air-craft, down to the mechanised impersonal death-blow of the rocket and atom bomb.

Each new devilish device has brought more and more people within its scope. Army v. Army has turned to air-force v. civilians, and now the "great globe itself, yea, all that it inhabits" shall become the tomb of indiscriminate victims of the inability of man's spirit to keep pace with his brain.

In the presence of death I would rather have you, my disagreeing friend, by my side than most people—cannot your courage, and the courage of countless others, face this new stage in the human problem of life and death—and realise that the qualities you bring to the land you love must serve her in a new way?

What that way is needs positive demonstration; but at least all the brave ones can join hands and say now, immediately: "Thus far and no further—war must not be."

PHYLLIS VALLANCE.

TEN YEARS AGO

From Peace News, May 12, 1939

Mahatma Gandhi, writing in *Harijan*, gives an affirmative answer to a correspondent who asks, "Is the carrying out of the pledge of the Peace Pledge Union a right and a practicable course of action..."

Going on to deal with another argument that "to refuse co-operation in violent resistance (i.e., to be a conscientious objector in case of war or conscription) in defence of democratic liberty is tantamount to helping those who are destroying that liberty," Mr. Gandhi declares that for fear of doing so pacifists should not "miss the only effective chance they have of demonstrating their undying faith in the futility of all war."

"The democracies must respect the liberty of individual non-violent conscience however inconvenient it may be. From that respect there will spring hope for the world."

"This means that they put their conscience and truth before their country's so-called interest. For, regard for one's conscience, if it is really such, has never yet injured any legitimate cause or interest."

PACIFISTS MUST RESIST

"Therefore, it comes to this, that a pacifist must resist when he feels strongly that, whether so-called democracies live or die, the tug of war will never end war and that it will only end when at the crucial moment a body of pacifists have at any cost testified their living faith by suffering. If need be, the extreme penalty."

"I know the point for me to consider is not how to avoid the extreme penalty but how to behave so as to achieve the object in view. Where the very disturbing but potent factor of faith is part of one's conduct, human calculations are of no avail."

"A true pacifist is a true Satyagrahi. The latter acts by faith and therefore is not concerned about the result, for he knows that it is assured when the action is true."

IF DEMOCRACIES BEAT FASCISM

"After all, what is the gain if the so-called democracies win? War certainly will not end. Democracies will have adopted all the tactics of the Fascists and the Nazis, including conscription and all other forcible methods to compel and exact obedience."

Inevitably, as the pioneers of pacifism, the Friends are its leaders and the man who does not belong to the Society of Friends would hesitate to teach his grandmother to suck eggs or distract her from what is now her primary occupation, the relief of suffering, the care of the bereaved, the dispatch of food and clothes. These are all honourable occupations and no one does them better than the Friends.

No, the problems of the born pacifist are very different from those of the convert. The convert is an impatient fellow and having turned his back on his friends and often his opportunities and his career, he is seldom content with relief work. He wants to change society, not just to rub healing ointment into its wounds.

What can he do here in Ireland? How can you in England help us to escape from the ignominy of neutrality and to play a positive, not a negative role in the building of peace? Direct pacifist propaganda has few prospects. In Ireland to go far off the beaten track is suicide.

A positive need

Moreover I do not think that it is so necessary in small States to preach peace, a negative virtue, as brotherhood, a positive one. Those who have once tasted neutrality in a world war will be neutral till their neutrality is violated.

In a small State like Ireland a peaceful foreign policy may be taken for granted. If war broke out, at most we might send an army of volunteers, such as went from Ireland to fight for Franco in Spain. But the suppression of volunteer armies which, for disinterested or mercenary motives go to fight in foreign lands does not seem to me of primary importance. The great evil is when apathetic or unwilling people are forced to hate, to fear and finally to kill those towards whom they feel no spontaneous dislike. If we could strike at that crime the other evils would die of their own accord.

"All that may be gained at the end of the victory is the possibility of comparative protection of individual liberty. But that protection does not depend upon outside help. It comes from the internal determination to protect it against the whole world."

"In other words, the true democrat is he who with purely non-violent means defends his liberty and therefore his country's and ultimately that of the whole of mankind."

"But the duty of resistance accrues only to those who believe in non-violence as a creed—not to those who will calculate and will examine the merits of each case and decide whether to approve of or oppose a particular war. It follows that such resistance is a matter for each person to decide for himself and under the guidance of the inner voice, if he recognises its existence."

In view of the introduction of Conscription, the Council of the Peace Pledge Union desires to re-affirm on behalf of its members the complete renunciation of war, and the refusal to support or sanction another.

Because Conscription is part of the preparation for war, the PPU expresses unalterable and uncompromising resistance to Conscription in general and to the Military Training Bill in particular.

The PPU regards Conscription as anti-social and contrary to the best traditions of Democratic freedom. It believes that Conscription will tend to undermine the spiritual, social and political liberties of the people.

—PPU Manifesto on Conscription.

Two thousand men and women marched from Dick Sheppard House, London, last Thursday, through packed West End streets to demonstrate against conscription.

Women's Co-op Guild to debate conscription

A RESOLUTION on world peace, on the Agenda of the Women's Co-operative Guild Annual Congress calls, among other things, for a reduction of armaments, opposition to the stationing of foreign troops in Britain, and the destruction of all atom bombs.

An addendum, submitted by the Wood Green Branch, asks that the Guild—as a pacifist body—should condemn the creed of class war, as unco-operative and provocative of antagonisms likely to lead both to internal and international disruption.

Pastoral

THE evil of nationalism in its present-day manifestations lies in the excessive emphasis that is placed upon it.

Were it conceived as no more than a qualified and useful means of furthering high and worthy ends, little fault could be found with it. There is no reason why nations, like individuals, should not help to advance the spiritual order of the world. But as it exists today nationalism is no more than an end in itself, to be nourished and strengthened in order that it may serve its own limited and selfish interests.

From being a potential instrument of human progress it has become degraded into a self-centred concern for what ministers mainly to its immediate and material advantage.

Ever and again through the years there have arisen peoples possessed of this exaggerated idea regarding the importance of the place they filled in the historical development of the race. Of this particular obsession Hitler provides a popular example. But to think for a moment that he stands alone would be to display that national self-pride so deserving of condemnation.

To a greater or lesser degree it is a sin of which all nations are guilty.

The immeasurable harm it has wrought is written all too plainly upon the pages of human history. The false valuation a nation will put upon its place and function in the world must always constitute a very real and formidable hindrance to mankind's progress towards truer levels of thought and understanding.

The sooner people disabuse their minds of the mischievous un-Christian idea that God has favourites, the better. No individual and no nation can assume to fill a position of special privilege in relationship to God's purpose. There may be, and undoubtedly are, peoples who occupy favoured positions by reason of the natural, cultural and spiritual advantages they enjoy. But they are not the consequence of exclusive favour. They result from the development and interplay of many and various forces over a long period of years. Such advantages, instead of providing a cause for boasting, should rather be thought of as calling for deep humility and much searching of heart.

Was it not against the powerful and privileged nations that the Hebrew prophets unloosed their terrific denunciation? And by no means the least guilty was Israel itself. Listen to the burning words of Amos! "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities." Little favouritism to be found there, despite Israel's favoured position. Indeed, it was the privileges it enjoyed which laid it open to sterner judgment.

The main cause lying at the root of the present world disruption is this excessive protrusion of national and imperial sovereignty and rights, a fixed determination that by any and every means the power and prestige bequeathed by the past shall not be surrendered.

In the light of events there is ample reason for thinking that it was more to preserve its standing and possessions than to overthrow Nazism that this country went to war. There is just as much sin in maintaining powers and privileges which are a cause of disturbance, as there is in seeking to acquire them by open aggression. To affirm that moral ideas on these matters have changed in recent years, and a new international code has come into being is the sheerest hypocrisy. If this new code is to be treated seriously, then it behoves those who set so high a value upon it to renounce their nationalism and claims to sovereignty as an earnest of their sincerity and good faith.

The urgent need of our time is not for pride and boasting but for humiliation and confession. "Weep for yourselves" is an injunction which might very usefully be taken to heart. Without a chastened spirit no way of lasting good can open. As with persons so with nations, pardon and release will come when mankind is prepared to acknowledge its sin and transgression, and in humility seek the forgiveness of God.

H. J. DALE

Another resolution "deplores the continuance of conscription and urges the repeal of the Act as soon as possible, thus releasing men for productive work and enabling the four-year plan to be realised." It further urges that young conscripts under 21 shall not be sent to serve abroad. An amendment by the Heston Branch calls for the repeal of the National Service Act now. Salisbury Branch have submitted a resolution calling for the formation of a World Food Board.

Challenge to the Red Cross

Instead of Arms, by Count Bernadotte. Hodder and Stoughton, 12s. 6d.

THERE is one thing I find quietly impressive about this book by a man who was himself unassumingly and quietly impressive—its simple impartiality. The book adds little to the enormous documentation of conditions in post-war Europe, but is important for the evidence it can confirm.

Count Bernadotte is a valuable witness.

His very neutrality as chairman of the Swedish Red Cross gives us cause to place reliance on what he has to say—the more so when he confirms other observers.

Apart from the moving picture we get of the humanitarian work of the Swedish Red Cross, there are the now pitifully common stories of prisoners-of-war, internment camps as bad as concentration camps, the utter disillusionment of the German people, their despair and hardy hankering for a leader, the worsening of relations between the Germans and the occupying powers, dire misery and suffering all over Europe; the three million Polish orphans, the injection of Communism into the political bloodstream of the Eastern States. It's all there, and it should be read, even if you've read it before. Count Bernadotte demands a hearing.

And, to me, the most frightening thing of all that emerges throughout this very human narrative is the deliberate obstructionism of the Russians. Count Bernadotte was never hasty to censure or condemn. He made more allowances than many would. Yet everywhere he faced Russian suspicion, distrust or frank antipathy to the work of the Swedish Red Cross—from their refusal to allow visits to PoW camps to their rejection of the Red Cross offer of relief to the Russian people.

The glimmers of hope are the small successes of personal contact and the proof, on occasions, that at least part of the Russian attitude was explainable by the Russians being wholly inadequately informed.

In one country after another there are glimpses of the appalling suffering caused by war being perpetuated by the infiltration of totalitarian methods restricting human freedom. The proud nationalism of the Turks, the suggestion that Rumania is still democratic beneath a Communist yoke may be small consolations, I don't know. The future is still hopelessly bewildering, and the Count concludes that, "The most important task of the Red Cross in war and peace is to campaign in all countries for the maintenance of peace in the world." I'd like to see them do in.

HARDIMAN SCOTT

Words of Peace - No. 260

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an
Instrument of Your peace!

Where there is hatred, let me
sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant
That I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to under-
stand;
To be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we
receive;
It is in pardoning that we are
pardoned;
It is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.

The Prayer of St. Francis
of Assisi, read by Vera
Brittain in the course of
her Chairman's Address,
PPU Annual General
Meeting, April 23, 1949.



HAPPINESS AND PEACE

Conditions of Happiness, by Gordon Rattray Taylor. Bodley Head, 10s. 6d.

GORDON RATTRAY TAYLOR is one of a small band of psychologists and sociologists who are using their knowledge to enhance personal well-being and social and world unity by ways which will free persons from the enslavement of the machine and of the materialism which it is being allowed to encourage, and society from the tensions which produce ideological clashes and international war.

"Conditions of Happiness" is divided into three parts: Analysis, Diagnosis, and Synthesis.

In Part I the author sets out to ascertain the factors which go to the development of human personality and to the achievement of human happiness, and in Parts II and III, diagnoses modern society, our industrial civilisation, in order to see to what extent it satisfies or permits the satisfaction of basic human needs.

He catalogues basic human needs as follows: of the Body, freedom from pain, health or maintenance of physical equilibrium; of the Mind, love (active and passive), beauty and creativity (purposive activity); also security through self-determination, consistency, and variety.

After analysing the factors necessary to the formation of a personality capable of achieving happiness, Mr. Taylor examines the possibilities of developing such a personality in the conditions of an Industrial Society. His opening paragraph in the section, "Diagnosis" is:

"We are now in a position to assess contemporary industrial society against the standards we have evolved and thus to find out—not, indeed, whether it is happy, for we know it is not—but where the roots of its unhappiness lie."

Thereafter Mr. Taylor reveals the manner in which existing Industrial Society undermines man's power of self-determination, prevents social cohesion, stimulates parasitism, the desire to get more out of life than one puts into it, also the demand for more and more distractions, and the substitution of vicarious sport for personal participation.

On the other hand, were our wants

more simple and natural, as they would be if we were able to derive satisfaction from our work, that is, if the latter were self-determined and thus vocational—

"We could probably produce all the goods we really need for a satisfactory existence, including a sane proportion of the aforesaid mechanical devices with about four hours of labour a day."

As an example of our crazy demands Mr. Taylor quotes a statement by American camera manufacturers "Who estimate that, on the average, the buyer of a camera exposes six spools of film and then loses interest."

The author concludes:

"What I am saying is that if everyone would agree to use a very much smaller number of such devices, it would be possible to remodel society in such a way as greatly to increase other forms of satisfaction, and there would be a mighty profit in happiness when the gains were balanced against the losses. . . ."

"The error we make is to believe that every new technical process must be adopted automatically. Happiness will only come when society learns to pick and choose, adopting only those processes which can be made to serve the scheme of happiness and rejecting the rest."

Readers of Peace News will not be unfamiliar with the following judgment:

"Whatever else may be cast in doubt, I believe it is beyond question that the many political and economic theories which occupy the world today, which absorb so much devoted support or embittered opposition, and which are held to justify so much brutality and bloodshed, are 90 per cent. error, both as regards ends and means. Movements like Socialism which are primarily concerned to help men in meeting their physical needs, not only leave psychological needs unsatisfied but are bound to intensify frustration by the very means they adopt to further their main end. Socialists and Communists are dominated by the same error as industrial capitalists: all believe or act as though they believe that the thing is to maximise the supply of goods and services."

In this process demands are made upon the world's markets and resources which cause war.

And so, incidentally, a psychological analysis of modern industrialism takes us to the roots of pacifism, and pacifists will find this book most stimulating.

WILFRED WELLOCK

The New Nationalism

FEW English people realise the nature of the nationalism that is now being developed in Scotland and in Wales.

Perhaps for the first time nationalism is being advocated as a means, among other things, of escaping from the evils of power politics, especially war, largely through the development of an economy which produces none of the tensions which cause war.

Among Scottish nationalist writers I have noticed a marked tendency to associate nationalism with a policy of military neutrality, while Welsh nationalists, bred in a strongly pacifist atmosphere, associate nationalism with a philosophy and an economy which are of the order of peace. It is the conviction of these writers that an economy which springs from a way of life which requires the maximum development of human personality is essentially co-operative and peaceful in nature.

This conviction finds forceful expression in "Towards an Economic Democracy," by D. J. Davies (Plaid Cymru, 8 Queen Street, Cardiff), whose author seems in the small, highly self-supporting, co-operatively organised community the conditions of maximum personal freedom and responsibility on the one hand, and of a contented nation and a peaceful world on the other. He reminds us of some words of the late Lord Keynes, which the politicians are apt to overlook:

"The nations of the world should pur-

sue a policy of economic isolation if they wish to lessen the danger of international conflict. Ideas, knowledge, science, hospitality, travel—these are the things which should of their nature be international. But let goods be home-spun wherever it is reasonably and conveniently possible, and, above all, let finance be primarily national."

Mr. Davies adds:

"Certainly there will be a better hope of a peaceful world when the different nations concentrate their energies upon 'cultivating their own gardens' instead of competing, as at present, to plant 'spheres of economic interest' in the gardens of their neighbours."

This booklet is a careful analysis and study of the various co-operative techniques by which the Welsh nationalists would transform Wales from an appendage of Britain's world economy with all the perils it has involved for that country during the last forty years, into a free country in control of its own economy and security and thus of the conditions of maximum personal and national well-being. His objective is the co-operative "third way" for Wales.

Why not a similar "third way" for England?

As Saunders Lewis, another Welsh nationalist, said a few years ago, "Men will have to develop anew, and at first on a small scale, new communities in the shadow of the industrialism of the modern State."

WILFRED WELLOCK

Personalism in the Market Place

The Crisis of the Human Person, by J. B. Coates. Longmans 12s. 6d.

MR. COATES has already written studies of "Ten Modern Prophets" and "Leaders of Modern Thought," and has put forward his plea for "A Common Faith or Synthesis." This book repeats the pattern, in that it is both a plea for synthesis and a critical exposition of a dozen prophets or leaders.

The synthesis for which, he says, he has long been searching, he has now found in Personalism, towards which, he suggests, "the whole thinking world is moving with greater or less consciousness."

Some of the basic ideas of personalism are expounded in the Introduction and in the chapters on Berdyaev, Buber and Mumford. Mr. Coates then brings the viewpoint, which these writers have helped him formulate, to bear upon the thought of three "Neo-Marxists"—Mannheim, Laski and Burnham; on three "Defeatists"—Heard, Huxley and Koestler; and on the Anarchism of Herbert Read and the Orthodoxy of C. S. Lewis, with results that confirm the general soundness of his position. If we must have an "ism," personalism is perhaps the best of those on the market just now.

Let us be clear about the quality of this book. Mr. Coates is an interpreter and expounder rather than an original thinker. Standing in a merely secondary relation to the ideas which he discusses, his writing lacks a strongly personal dynamic: he comes to us with no new insights. The role of middleman of ideas he plays most ably, and on that level this is an excellent book of its kind, which deserves to reach a wide general public.

But like all popularisers, Mr. Coates somewhat debases the currency he handles. His personalism seems awkwardly superimposed upon an optimistic progressivism the foundations of which he has not subjected to rigorous analysis.

Despite the title, his sense of crisis is far from acute, and he tends to give it a merely political rather than a personal inflexion: he can even speak of personalism as "an attempt to add a rider to Marxism."

And he is politically naive. He seems quite unaware, for instance, of the significance of war as the expression of social crisis and the point at which the personal and the political come into sharp conflict, and his far too facile acceptance of the role of the State in the modern world leads him to alarming betrayals such as this—

"There is little doubt . . . that some of the restrictions on freedom under the Soviet system which have been profoundly disturbing to Western liberals have arisen through the strains and exigencies to which Russia has found herself subjected in building her Socialist economy. A personalist who recognises, with Maritain, that from one aspect of his being man is a part of a social whole with a duty to subordinate his wishes to the needs of the whole, will not be troubled about certain forms of interference with freedom which may seem alarming to the liberal and individualist."

There are other slips in the book which strongly suggest that Mr. Coates personalism is not so deeply rooted as he supposes. Kierkegaard, for instance, was not a personalist nor even a humanist, as he suggests, but the very opposite; and so far from Huxley's "mystical" notions being valuable and his politics unsound, it is rather the other way about. For many readers, nevertheless, this will be a valuable and stimulating book.

D. S. SAVAGE

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CHRIS HOLLIS v COMMUNISM

ON April 29 Christopher Hollis, MP, spoke in the National Peace Council series of lunch-hour meetings on "Britain's Foreign Policy."

He gave a documented exposition of Communism, its development during the last thirty years and its probable strategy in the near future.

He said that we had to face both military and the spiritual challenge of Communism; weapons with weapons and ideas with ideas.

On the material side he felt that the challenge was being met by the Atlantic Pact, the Berlin Air-lift and general military preparedness.

He was much less explicit in the realms of ideas. Beyond telling us that Christianity was a very good thing and putting in a plea for Chestertonian "Distributism" it was hard to gain enlightenment as to how we were to meet positive with positive.

LIBERAL'S FOUR POINTS

Mr. Dingle Foot gave the third NPC talk on May 6.

He said that when anyone asked him why he was still a Liberal he replied that it was because the Party stood for some things which no other party stood for.

He then made four points that Liberals advocate in Foreign Policy.

1. Free institutions "everywhere."
2. Right of asylum for political refugees.
3. Recognition of the interdependence of economics and politics.
4. That the Havana Charter should be treated as one of the most important recent documents.

At question time someone asked what was the Liberal attitude to conscription. He replied, "We are against it, but not on pacifist grounds. We think that a volunteer army would be better and cheaper than a conscripted one."

Pacifists will have an opportunity of hearing Emrys Hughes, MP, speak in the series of National Peace Council Lunch-hour Meetings on British Foreign Policy next Friday, May 20, at 1.15 p.m. Emrys Hughes is the first pacifist speaker in this series. Another pacifist MP, Reginald Sorensen, will be in the Chair.

Paris delegates were sincere —ANN FRY

By "Group Member"

Ann Fry, addressing Central London Group on the "Paris Peace Conference" last Friday, said she had been very encouraged by the Conference, the more so as it had not been pacifist.

She felt that pacifist opinion was too small to stop the next war, but that if all the people represented in Paris were as sincere and ardent as their delegates, there was an enormous will to peace.

She particularly emphasised the temper of the women—no longer content to provide the politicians with young lives to squander.

Big crowd at Nottingham

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

Nottingham.

THE Market Square here, with its bright flowers among the white paving-stones and balustrades, was softly lit by the western sun as the PPU members and some women who had heard Sybil Morrison speak at a Women's Club Conference in the afternoon, gathered for an open-air meeting on Tuesday, May 3.

The small crowd of supporters rapidly grew to large dimensions as Donald Pipe opened the meeting and introduced Sybil Morrison.

Nottingham had not heard anything like her forthright and challenging message for many a long year; the majority of the big crowd were obviously sympathetic as she answered questions and dealt with hecklers, and the pacifists found it a source of inspiration and joy to hear their cause put so coherently and concisely and courageously.

Donald Pipe and others mean to carry on regular meetings in the Square, and it is a matter for rejoicing and congratulation that the Group so keenly supports their efforts.

Greater Midlands activity

BACK from a three-week visit to Germany, Connie Jones declared in Birmingham last week that she was more than ever convinced that "what the Peace Pledge Union is saying now is the message the world needs."

And that was her message to Midland members of the PPU on receiving from some of them gifts of a refectory table, bedside chair and bedside lamp in recognition of nearly six years, difficult work as honorary secretary of the West Midland Area. They were presented to her by Harry Hilditch (a member of the PPU National Council), who had interrupted his municipal electioneering campaign specially for the purpose.

The choice of gifts, however, did not indicate any intention on Connie's part to rest; for she is to continue to serve as secretary.

The occasion was the second "members' meeting" of the Area in a new effort to arouse the PPU to greater activity in the Midlands.

It was reported that half a dozen volunteers had sold six dozen copies of Peace News during the May Day procession through the streets of Birmingham. But one of them, Mrs. Dorothy Chapman, by energetic salesmanship, had alone accounted for 40 of them.

Humphrey Moore urged all members to keep watch for possible news paragraphs and to send them promptly to the Editor of Peace News—in the case of press cuttings, with name and date of paper clearly indicated.

Pacifist Profiles

XXXIX

IT is only to be expected that the pacifist movement should be well represented in the Arts, and it has no more distinguished representative than Edward Benjamin Britten.



Benjamin Britten

1934) was another early mark of this. Educated at Gresham's School, Ely, at 16 he won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music, where he astonished the professors by his musical knowledge. One of them is reported to have said that "the lad made him feel a duffer." He also studied privately under Frank Bridge and Harold Samuel.

Leaving the RCM he devoted himself to free-lance music and concert-giving, mostly

Born in 1913, he is among the two or three most outstanding British composers of his day, his fame throughout the world being assured by the production in 1945 of his opera *Peter Grimes*, at Sadlers Wells.

Like most musicians of front rank, his talent appeared almost with his birth, for by the age of two he was continually demanding to be lifted on to the piano stool and only three years later he was composing simple songs.

His was a musical family and his brother and sisters played the piano with some ability, but he was by no means without honour in his own family and it is said that when Benjy had a tune to work out he was given priority. His bedtime reading even in childhood was musical scores, and by the age of nine he had composed a string quartet. His peculiar ability to write for strings has indeed remained with him, and his *Simple Symphony*, for string orchestra, which he began in his eleventh year (to be revised in

with Peter Pears. Most of his work for the tenor voice—including the name part in *Peter Grimes* and the lovely *Serenade*—has been written for this close friend and fellow-pacifist, who, in 1947, at a PPU concert in London, sang the first performance of *Canticle*, specially composed in memory of Dick Sheppard.

These two young musicians together spent countless hours during the later war years and subsequently in giving concerts all over the country for CEMA, Save Europe Now and other organisations.

In 1939 and until 1942 he worked in America, obtaining the Coolidge Medal in 1941. Returning from there to appear before a CO Tribunal, where Sir Adrian Boult spoke impressively of his importance to British music, he was granted unconditional exemption.

By 1934 he was writing film music, and this had an indirect relation to later operatic work, for it was in the film business that he met Montagu Slater, the *Peter Grimes* librettist, and W. H. Auden, with whom he wrote among other vocal works, *Hymn to St. Cecilia* and in 1941 an earlier operatic effort, *Paul Bunyan*.

His output has been copious and of great variety, choral, orchestral and solo, but before *Peter Grimes* he was known only in limited circles. With that opera's performance his name blazed into prominence, and since then he has been "world news," as well as being in constant demand both as composer and performer, for he is a pianist and accompanist of genius. Among his recent works are *Albert Herring*, *The Rape of Lucretia* and a new realisation of *The Beggar's Opera*.

Benjamin Britten is a man of wide interests and all-round abilities, active in body as well as in mind and spirit. At school, mathematics and most other lessons came easily to him, and his recreations are still tennis, badminton and swimming.

He is still a youngish man, and has by no means yet reached the top of his fame.

"THE FAITH OF FRIENDSHIP"

SOME 40 young people from England, Germany, Italy and the Seychelle Islands came together for the Easter Youth Holiday Conference arranged by the Fellowship of Reconciliation at "Oakenrough," Haslemere. During the weekend they discovered something of what the Conference title, "The Faith of Friendship," could mean in living, discussing and in recreation together.

People with knowledge and practical experience of the social problems of the day served as discussion leaders. The Rev. W. B. J. Martin, of Crossway Central Mission, spoke of the problems in a London slum. Members heard about international work camps in Europe from Ian Abbott, and about relief work in the Far East from Colin Porteous.

Here were practical fields of service in which young people could express their brotherhood with those of different upbringing, creed and nation. Working together in a common purpose, e.g., in a work camp, was a valuable way of breaking down barriers, and Conference members had some experience of its value in washing up and preparing vegetables together—a wonderful loosener of tongues!

From Wendy Edwards, who was present at the Amsterdam Assembly of the World Council of Churches, the Conference learned that though much more co-operation had been achieved in some spheres than ever before, the Church spoke with three voices on the subject of war.

AYLWIN TAGGART

Notes for your Diary

As this is a free service, we reserve the right to select for publication notices sent in. We nevertheless desire to make it as complete a service as we reasonably can, and therefore urge organisers of events to:

1. Send notices to arrive not later than Monday.
2. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, Place (hall, street); nature of event; speakers, organisers (and secretary's address)—preferably in that order and style.

Today (Friday)

LONDON, W.1: 7 p.m. Weigh House Church, Duke Street: "The Christian Alternative to Power Politics"; Dr. Alex Wood: Annual Meeting of London FoR.

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m. 8 Endsleigh Gardens: "Britain's Economic Future"; George Plume; Central London PPU Group.

LONDON, W.C.2: 1.15 p.m. Kingsway Hall: "British Foreign Policy"; Dr. Hewlett Johnson; National Peace Council.

Saturday, May 14

LONDON, W.1: 2.30 p.m. Weigh House, Binney Street, Oxford Street: "The Individual and World Citizenship"; James Avery Joyce and Hugh J. Schonfeld; World Citizenship Movement.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS: 3 p.m. Unitarian Church, Church Street: Area Conference for Suffolk; Rev. Clifford H. Macquire; FoR.

NOTTINGHAM: 3.30 p.m. Adult School-rooms, Friar Lane: Area Conference for South Nottinghamshire; Hugh Faulkner; FoR.

TORQUAY: 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Unity Hall, Mount Pelier Road: Area Conference for South Devon and East Cornwall; Sydney J. Russell; FoR.

Sunday, May 15

FINSBURY PARK: 11 a.m. Open-air meeting; Speaker: Kenneth Trueman; Stoke Newington Group, PPU.

Monday, May 16

TOWER HILL: 1 p.m. Open-air meeting; Brian Anstey; PPU.

Thursday, May 19

MANCHESTER: 1 p.m. Market Street Blitzed Site: Open-air lunch-hour meeting; Manchester Central PPU Group.

DAGENHAM: 8 p.m. Kingsley Hall: Public meeting "Christianity and the World Need"; Rev. W. Simpson; FoR.

LONDON, W.C.2: 1 p.m. Lincoln's Inn Fields: Open-air meeting; Sybil Morrison; PPU.

Friday, May 20

LONDON, W.C.1: 1.15 p.m. Kingsway Hall: "Britain's Foreign Policy"; Emrys Hughes, MP; Chairman: Reginald Sorensen, MP; National Peace Council.

LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m. 8 Endsleigh Gardens: Group Policy; Central London PPU Group.

Saturday, May 21

SALISBURY: 3 p.m. St. Francis House, 20 Park Lane: Area Conference for Wiltshire; Hugh Faulkner; FoR.

Sunday, May 22

MANCHESTER: 7 p.m. Platt Fields: Open-air meeting; Manchester Central PPU Group.

LONDON, W.C.1: 6.30 p.m. Regent Square Presbyterian Church Evening Service "My Recent Visit to Essen"; Rev. Patrick Figgis.

FINSBURY PARK: 11 a.m. Open-air meeting; Speakers: Christopher Wren and Tony Bradshaw; Stoke Newington PPU Group.

Monday, May 23

TOWER HILL: 1 p.m. Open-air meeting; Brian Anstey; PPU.

Wednesday, May 25

HIGHGATE: N.6: 30 Wood Lane, Garden Party; World Citizenship Movement.

Thursday, May 26

LONDON, W.C.2: 1 p.m. Lincoln's Inn Fields: open-air meeting; Sybil Morrison; PPU.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

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MEETINGS

EMRYS HUGHES, MP, on Britain's Foreign Policy. Friday, May 20 at 1.15 p.m., Kingsway Hall, W.C.2. National Peace Council.

LAKELAND AREA QM at Lancaster: 3.15 p.m. Friends Meeting House (adjacent Castle Station). Saturday May 28, own food; drink provided. Sybil Morrison to confer with members and sympathisers: every centre urged to send delegates. Hospitality over Saturday night for long-distance representatives who apply early to Secretary, John Bullough, "The Orchard," Risedale, Grange-over-Sands.

WEIGH HOUSE Church, Duke Street, W.1. (Bond St. Tube). Sunday evenings at 7. The Gospel of Peace! Social hour follows.

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TYPEWRITERS URGENTLY needed for Peace News office, standard and portable. What offers? Please send particulars and price to the Manager, Peace News Ltd., 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

HOUSEMAN'S BOOKSHOP at 124, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1. will now remain open until May 28. Selling off all stock at half-price. Please call or write. From May 30 send your orders and enquiries to 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

WANTED To buy, "He Came Down From Heaven" by Charles Williams, Miss Parker, 87, Pulborough-road, S.W.18.

LITERATURE, &c.

QUAKERISM. Information and Literature respecting the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London.

PERSONAL

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WALKER PRINTING Service, 175 Fleet Street, E.C.4, invites enquiries for quality printing—books, catalogues, pamphlets, magazines, colour and commercial. Estimates prove good printing costs no more than the mediocre.

Mlle. ROLANDE Coudrier (teacher) offers French lessons, translating, typing, exchange for hospitality during Aug.—Sept. in English home; refs if desired: White 104 Avenue de Choisy, Paris, 13me.

GIFT PARCELS of Coffee, Tea, Food and Clothing, sent to your friends in Europe. Quick delivery. Apply: Fregata Ltd., 11 Greek Street, London, W.1.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Situations are available only to applicants accepted from the Control of Engagement Order, 1947, No. 2021.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE Assistant required immediately. Shorthand, Typing and simple A/c keeping. Women's International League, 104 Southampton Row, W.C.1. CHA 7233.

SHERWOOD (PROGRESSIVE Community) School, Epsom, (SUSSEX) requires in September: (1) Form teacher, age 16-18, preferably with Junior school experience; (2) Housefather able to teach woodwork; (3) General maintenance man or alternative combinations (2) and (3).

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GENTLEMAN, UPPER level middle age, varied experience, seeks berth clerical factotum or otherwise. Box 54.

MISCELLANEOUS

REGINALD BAILEY, assisted by Mrs. Bailey, Naturopath, Osteopath, Psychiatrist and Bates System for eyes. 134 Hoppers Road, Wincemore Hill, N.21. Palmers Green 7868. By appointment.

VOLUNTARY HELPERS urgently needed at Peace News office, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, up to 9.30 p.m. Wednesday evening. No special experience necessary. 1 minute Finsbury Park Station, 3 Blackstock Road (above Fish and Cook, stationers), N.4.—or phone STAmford Hill 2262-4.

WAR RESISTERS' International welcomes gifts of foreign stamps and undamaged air mail covers. Please send to WRL, Lansbury House, 88 Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex.

TRAVELLERS, SALESMEN are needed to sell Endeigh Cards. 1949 Christmas Range shortly available, a larger selection of attractive and distinctive designs at keen prices. Usual commission offered. Endeigh Cards help provide the funds to continue Peace News. Help and suggestions warmly welcomed. Please send details to the Manager, Endeigh Cards, c/o Peace News Ltd., 3 Blackstock Road London, N.4.

Letters to the Editor

Marie - Louise Berneri

MANY pacifists who knew Marie-Louise Berneri will already have learnt with a shock of her death at the age of thirty-one.

Though not pacifists themselves, Marie-Louise and her husband (Vernon Richards) were often associated with pacifists in their work, and they were consistent in their opposition to war, on anarchist grounds.

Marie-Louise, who wrote books, pamphlets and articles and edited anarchist publications, in addition to supervising much of the publishing undertaken by the Freedom Press, always found time for the less spectacular work as well. Many who did not know her name must have seen the very strikingly beautiful girl with the mass of dark hair who sold *Spain and the World* (which later changed its title to *War Commentary*, and eventually to *Freedom*) outside public meetings.

Ethel Mannin and I were among those pacifists who worked with Marie-Louise at the time of the Spanish Civil War and came to know her as a good comrade, of great vitality, courage and natural gaiety. Our contact at that time was chiefly concerned with relief work for Spanish refugees, and in later years we found occasional opportunities for co-operation in matters relating to the World War. The last time that I saw Marie-Louise was at the trial of four anarchists for sedition in 1945, when she was one of the accused. It was on a decision of our Defence Committee, and against her personal wishes, that the case was defended by Counsel on legal grounds. Her own preference, which I now think was a correct one, was for the "iscners conducting their own case. As things turned out she was the only one of the four to be acquitted, by what she regarded as a legal "quibble," and she took no satisfaction at all in this.

Marie-Louise was the daughter of Camillo Berneri, a distinguished and cultured Italian who was internationally known, especially among anarchists. Much of his life was spent as a refugee, and he died eventually in Barcelona, shot by a Communist during the fighting in May, 1937, when Communists and Anarchists were struggling for the control of Catalonia. Marie-Louise, then a girl of nineteen was already an experienced and able worker for the cause to which her whole family had devoted itself. Into twelve years that followed from her father's death until her own, this heroic young woman packed so much work that most people would have been reasonably proud had they lived the normal span of years and achieved even half as much.

Every pacifist who knew Marie-Louise Berneri will, I am sure, remember her with gratitude, admiration and affection. Those who never knew her, will, I hope, feel some inspiration in thinking of a life so utterly devoted to the cause of liberty and justice.

REGINALD REYNOLDS

ARMY DAY

(Continued from page one)

Pledge Union into the columns of the Evening News in the following paragraph:

"During the course of the parade police confiscated thousands of pamphlets which were being distributed by the Peace Pledge Union. These pamphlets were headed 'Must Children Die as Nations Arm?'"

Every London newspaper with the exception of The Times, printed the picture of the Ludgate Circus demonstration by a group of mothers who "stole the show" from the Army. The peace slogans they carried were quoted in BBC news bulletins.

The women, mostly wives of ex-servicemen, waited until the motorised sections of the parade and the bus loads of police had passed before rushing into the road to make a human barrier.

THROUGH A YORKSHIRE TELESCOPE:

Viewing the incident apparently from 200 miles away, the Yorkshire Post describes it thus: "... there were no disturbances of importance, though in Ludgate Circus a number of women members of the Peace Pledge movement caused a little inconvenience to the marchers by distributing leaflets."

REST and PEACE in IRELAND
June, July, 400-year-old Country House, Woods and River in Grounds, Moorland and Mountain views. Turf fires, candle and lamplight. Books on many subjects, good piano.
Animals welcomed. Vegetarian food if requested.
49na. WEEKLY
SHEILA FITZGERALD, Charleville House, Turlough, Castlebar, Mayo.

VEGETARIANISM
as a humane practice demands the consideration of all pacifists.
Write for literature, and recipe books (Vegetarianism for Beginners 1s. 1d.; Vegetarian Recipes 1s. 8d. post free) from the VEGETARIAN SOCIETY (Est. 1847), Bank Square, Wilmslow, Nr. Manchester.

Pacifists in France

AS a response to the "Congress of the Partisans of Peace" held recently in Paris, a "Demonstration against War and Dictatorship" was held the following week in which the Cartel International de la Paix, which groups the various French pacifist movements, participated.

Unfortunately the Socialist Party also participated. This it should be said, is the party that is known, even to its own militants, as the "loyal managing director of Capitalism."

Its deputies vote military credits, its Ministers are often scoundrels like Depreux and Moutet who were responsible for the massacres in Indo-China, Madagascar and Algeria, like Ramadier who made the army kill strikers, like Gouin who was chased from office following an enormous black market scandal.

This demonstration against war and dictatorship began with a private meeting in the Sorbonne, in the course of which speakers of all the organisations were heard.

Certain delegates like Sydney Hook (USA) and de Kadt (Holland) were shouted at for having defended the Marshall Plan and the Atlantic Pact. Most of the other speakers displayed their hostility to the USSR and expressed their partisanship of the USA.

True, they all wanted Peace, but none of them had any constructive solution to offer!

It was then that Frank Emmanuel, general secretary of the Cartel International de la Paix, Maurice Paisant, Anarchist, and Racine, Syndicalist, took up the word and explained to the hall our conception of "revolutionary pacifism" and our methods of fighting—namely, refusal to obey, general strike, boycott of arms transport, non-violence and social revolution.

The bomb for peace!

In the evening 6 to 7,000 gathered at a meeting in the Velodrome d'Hiver. It was a small crowd for such a demonstration. It is certain that if the Socialist Party had not participated we should have had a crowd of 15,000 as at the meeting of Garry Davis.

There were many speeches, of which those of Ignazio Silone and David Rousset, on the need for social revolution, made a great impression. Then came a certain Carl Compton, American savant and maker of atomic bombs, who declared that the atomic bomb was an assurance of peace!

That was the limit! The hall shouted its astonishment and disapproval. Then, the Anarchists, who had been refused a hearing (democratically!) invaded the platform while troublesome elements of the 4th International (Trotskyites) profited by the disturbance to exchange blows with the stewards.

In the tumult, Garry Davis tried to read a declaration, but no one heard it.

Calm returned when speech was permitted to the Anarchists (who are associated with the Cartel International de la Paix). In his turn, then, our comrade Fontain made a forthright speech, saying that what the people needed more than all this poetic speechifying was a true and precise formula, upon which an authentic popular movement for revolutionary pacifism should be based. And he reminded us that "The proletariats have no country!"

The whole audience made it clear by their enthusiastic applause that this speech was the most brilliant of the evening.

At the close a final resolution was adopted:

"That the cause of Peace is closely bound up with the struggle for the social and economic transformation of the whole world. This struggle can only be maintained by the support and extension of democratic liberties."

Unhappily, in this country where four years of Nazi occupation have left deep traces, the notion of "democratic liberties" is by no means the same for everybody!

BERNARD SALMON

Rue Emile Zola,
Cornailles en Parisis,
S. et O. France.

Old clothes wanted

Central London Group having agreed to run a jumble sale on behalf of Stepney PSU would welcome clothes, etc.

Gifts will be collected on receipt of a post card which should be sent to Sidney Billson, 33 Compton Road, N.1.

All books Reviewed on page four should be obtained from:—

HOUSMANS BOOKSHOP

124 Shaftesbury Ave., W.1

AFTER MAY 28th
MOVING TO

3 BLACKSTOCK RD., N.4
(at PEACE NEWS office)

Newcastle P.P.U. hands over Greek C.O. petition

Two-hundred-and-fifty-four signatures were on a petition of protest handed to the Greek Consul on April 29 in Newcastle following the execution of two Greek conscientious objectors, John Tsoukaris and George Orphanidis. The COs were Jehovah's Witnesses.

THE petition was handed to the Consul by a deputation of representatives of the PPU, FoR, UNA and the British-Soviet Society, who drew attention to Article 18 of the Human Rights Declaration adopted by the UN Assembly: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion..."

The Newcastle PPU Group, who organised the petition, have had the matter taken up by two local MPs, one of whom, John McKay (MP for Wallsend) received a letter from Mr. Mayhew, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs in which he says:

"I have no information about Mr. Tsoukaris but I have asked our Embassy in Athens for a short report and will let you know."

"Mr. Orphanidis was executed on March 2. He had already been called up for military service and had received the usual training, in the course of which he had borne arms. When ordered with his unit to take part in military operations, he refused to obey orders, intimating for the first time that he was a member of the sect known as Jehovah's Witnesses. The Corinthian special Court Martial, before which he appeared, refused to accept this plea as Mr. Orphanidis had already been bearing arms. In the conditions of civil war prevailing in Greece the Greek authorities have been obliged to introduce martial law which provides for the severest penalty for such offences."

"You will appreciate that His Majesty's Government (except where British interests or Treaty obligations are involved) have no status to intervene in the trials of foreign nationals by their own courts, which are essentially a matter within the domestic jurisdiction of the country concerned. In the case of Hungary, an enemy country, as for example in the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty referred to in the newspaper cutting (PN, 25.3.49) His Majesty's Government have certain rights and duties under the terms of the Peace Treaty to ensure that the Hungarian Government carries out those clauses concerning human rights and the fundamental freedoms."

Tom Lang, Secretary of Newcastle PPU Group comments: "It is a historical fact that the present government would not be in power in Greece were it not for British intervention in 1944. It is also very doubtful whether it would remain in power for more than a few weeks but for American arms and British troops."

"Greek military dictatorship is bolstered up by British Government support, and it is impudent of our Foreign Office to disclaim all responsibility for the Greek Government's policies and actions. In any case, is not Greece a member of the United Nations, and Britain also?"

"Should not the British Government protest vigorously to the Greek Government about their violation of Article 18? Or can it be that fundamental freedoms are only of importance in ex-enemy countries."

SEVEN QUESTIONS

(Continued from page one)

global arms pact and suicidal arms race, or whether their first allegiance and expenditure shall be for the United Nations and a world system of law and government.

We recognise the cruel dilemma which our State Department feels it is in with the fear and insecurity prevalent in Europe, with Communist infiltration of many countries, with the difficulties of securing agreement in the Soviet Union over atomic energy control... the Russian boycott of most UN specialised agencies and their recent withdrawal from the World Health Organisation, the loss of freedom and liberty in Eastern Europe... and similar situations.

However, many Americans doubt that the USA has made a thorough-going effort to... modify the cold war. They look with apprehension upon the President's seeming unwillingness to talk with Stalin or suggest some counter proposal.

FOOTNOTE:

Mr. Henry Wallace, in his evidence before the Committee, accused the State Department of holding up for a month the Russian offer to lift the Berlin blockade "because of fears that it might block the Atlantic Pact."

The Russians, he said, told the State Department on Mar. 21 that they were ready to end the blockade on condition that the Big Four should consider the whole German problem. "This Soviet concession," he said "explodes the myth on which the Pact is based."

This doctrine of containment of Russia and Communism, he said, was not an American doctrine but a policy first advocated and since steadily pursued by Mr. Churchill, except for a short interval in the war. It was not the business of an American to further the policies of Mr. Churchill and a small group of military men and imperialists who joined him.

Sybil Morrison's CAMPAIGN COLUMN

"And speak a tyrant's functions down."
—George Loveless (Tolpuddle Martyr).

IT was Army Day, and Victory Day, and the people of London had gathered to see jeeps and tanks and marching men proceeding in formation through the streets. There was very little colour; even the sun struck no glint from the muddy green of the vehicles and the khaki uniforms of the men.

In the Strand, where I was giving out leaflets, the most brilliant sight was the silver braid on the cap and shoulders of a particularly important-looking police officer.

There had been little time to organise wide distribution of leaflets, for it was only publicly announced on Tuesday that Thursday, May 5, was to be the occasion for a great Army march. Through the energy and initiative of Hugh Brock of Peace News a specially written leaflet was printed in twenty-four hours and ready for distribution by the few stalwarts who were able to come at such short notice, on the Thursday.

Leaflets confiscated

As I stood at the corner of Aldwych I was thinking what tremendous courage it would take to push through the crowd into the middle of the road, interrupt the procession, and call out the words of the leaflet, when a very tall police sergeant bore down on me and took the leaflets out of my hands.

This was rather a sudden descent from my high thoughts of "speaking down" the tyranny of war more literally than by handing out leaflets. I was brave enough to argue with the police sergeant as to his right to confiscate the property of my organisation, but I was still unsure as to whether I would have been brave enough to interrupt an exhibition of military power as a gesture against war preparation.

Later I read of a dozen women who did in fact stand in front of the marching men with placards bearing the words, "No More War," "Homes not Bombs," "We Want Peace For Our Kids." These words, along with our own leaflet headed "Must Children Die As Nations Arm?" should surely find an echo in the hearts of people all over the world.

No assurance of peace

These women were trying, as we were with our leaflets, to "speak down" the tyranny of war; we were all saying, by implication, that this display of military strength gave no assurance of security for our children, nor for peace in our time.

It is not easy to cut across the emotional instinct of mass acclamation at a patriotic display; it is not easy to resist one's own instinct to shirk the effort required. There is, too, the constant dilemma of deciding whether the particular action will do more harm than good; to shake people out of their apathetic acceptance of war-preparation is part of the work of the campaign, and every effort will be made to have ready leaflets and posters relevant to all occasions.

My quotation this week is from the song of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, those pioneers of the Labour Movement, whose non-violent struggle has gone down in history; we must be guided, as they were, by what we believe to be good; we must be willing, as they were, to suffer for what we believe to be right.

Anti-conscription rally in North London

AN all-day open-air meeting and anti-conscription demonstration on Registration Day (Saturday, May 21) is being organised by members of the Hornsey, Islington and Stoke Newington PPU Groups and the No Conscription Council.

They are appealing for support to keep a meeting going from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. outside the Holloway Labour Exchange (at the corner of Medina Road and Seven Sisters Road) while eighteen-year-old conscripts are registering for military service.

Pacifists willing either to speak, distribute leaflets or sell Peace News during the meeting are asked to forward their names to Hugh Brock at 3 Blackstock Road, N.4. (Phone STA 2262), stating the hours during which they would be available.

Medina Road is a short trolleybus ride from Camden Town Station or five minutes walk from Finsbury Park Station.

Next week's Peace News will be a special "anti-conscription" number suitable for selling outside Labour Exchanges.

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